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Economics Newsletter

Department of Economics

2011

Fall 2011 Economics Newsletter

Economics Department

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Recommended Citation

Department, Economics, "Fall 2011 Economics Newsletter" (2011). *Economics Newsletter*. 24.
https://repository.stcloudstate.edu/econ_newsletter/24

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THE ECONOMICS BULLETIN

FROM THE CHAIR

Welcome to the new School of Public Affairs! It is now official, comprised of the departments of Economics, Criminal Justice, Political Science, and Geography, Planning and Community Development, with Örn Bodvarsson as our interim dean. With your input we are working on the new mission and vision for the School, with a greater focus on community engagement, collaborative research, and career preparation to better prepare our students for leadership roles in the community. Based on input from students, alumni, and community leaders we hope to institute a mentorship program with alumni to better prepare our students for careers in this competitive job market.

Within the economics department we have had some changes, Lynn MacDonald and David Switzer received tenure this year; this is a huge accomplishment based on their excellent scholarship and service to the students and university. Lynn MacDonald was promoted to Associate Professor – congratulations! Mana Komai is returning from her sabbatical at the University of Arizona, where she took classes, taught classes, and continued her extensive research agenda. Arta Ratha is returning this year from his sabbatical in India as a Fulbright-Nehru Visiting Lecturer. Due to his influence we may in turn host a Fulbright Scholar from India. We also have plans to host a visiting Scholar from China again this year. In addition, the first three students from our Binhai exchange program will be starting this year in the Applied Master's program. Rich MacDonald is on sabbatical this year, and will be teaching at St. Bonaventure in New York. Eungmin Kang will be on sabbatical this Spring. Ming Lo is heading up the Winter Institute this year, with a focus on Green Economic Growth. Ken Rebeck is our new Director for the Center for Economic Education. This year the center hosted the Minnesota Heartland Economics Challenge, with 14 schools attending. The winners (Albany –small school division and Little Falls – large school division) went on to win their respective divisions at the state championships. King Banaian received the Legislator of Distinction Award based on his environmental legislation. Due to the efforts of Ming Lo, Ken Rebeck, and David Switzer the department is publishing on YouTube (search SCSUEcon). Pretty exciting stuff!

Patricia Hughes

Dr. King Banaian
 Dr. Örn Bodvarsson
 Dr. Mónica García-Pérez
 Dr. N. Eric Hampton
 Dr. Patricia Hughes
 Dr. Eungmin Kang
 Dr. Mana Komai
 Dr. Ming Chien Lo
 Dr. Lynn MacDonald
 Dr. Richard MacDonald
 Dr. Masoud Moghaddam
 Dr. Ting Qin
 Dr. Artatrana Ratha
 Dr. Ken Rebeck
 Dr. David Switzer

MEET THE PROFESSOR



Professor **Ken Rebeck** is entering his eleventh year at SCSU. Most of the courses he teaches have a microeconomics focus including Principles and Intermediate Microeconomics, Law & Economics, and the Economics of Crime. He is active in the field of economics and personal finance education, recently coauthoring the latest edition of the *Test of Understanding in College Economics* and currently revising the high school level *Test of Economic Literacy*, and he has recently accepted the position of Director for SCSU's Center for Economic Education. As his family grows, now with two daughters, he has replaced a bad golf game with the less-expensive pastime of fishing in the limited hours his wife allows away from the family.

GRADUATES

Spring 2011

Yotiaud (Vivien) Apoutou*
 Anshuman Arun
 Alexander Banks-Watson
 Evelynne Benie*
 Eli Biesanz
 Anthony Bouril
 Maribeth Bruhn-Kasi*
 Jared Christensen
 John Corrigan
 Jennifer Danzl
 Nathaniel Donnay*
 Michael Engelking
 Joshua Finney
 Colleen Galligan
 Bradley Holtz
 Chad Kingbay
 Kayla Klug
 Yawovi (Sessi) Komlanvi*
 Bryan Kuechenmeister
 Brendan Kummet
 Lucas Kunde
 Jeffrey Linde
 Taylor Metzger
 Nhu Nguyen
 Dylan Novak
 Alix Ohrt
 Shane Rengel
 Curt Schroeder
 Amenyiho Zognran

* indicates graduate student

DEAN'S LIST

Spring 2011

Amber Aeshliman
 James Borchert
 Lucas Edberg
 Amy Finsky
 Andrew Godziek
 Chad Johnson
 Ryan Krebs
 Chadwick Kunkel
 Wen Lian
 Zeqing Lu
 Eric Marshall
 Taylor Metzger
 Sk Ragib Morshed
 Nhu Nguyen
 Dylan Novak
 Alix Ohrt
 Michael Rajewsky
 Zachary Sather
 Jacob Seaquist
 Tracy Selchow
 Benneth Sheeley
 Samuel Swedberg

WINTER INSTITUTE

Mark your calendars! The 50th Annual Winter Institute will be held February 29 (afternoon at Kelly Inn) and March 1 (morning on campus) and our tentative working title is "Green Economic Growth: How Natural Resources Will Shape Our Economy and Our Community". Additional information will be published in our Spring newsletter.

FACULTY

Örn Bodvarsson's book, *The Economics of Immigration: Theory and Policy* (co-authored with Hendrik F. Van den Berg) was reviewed in *Journal of Economic Literature* (December, 2010). He and Hendrik recently agreed with their publisher, Springer-Verlag, to produce a 2nd edition of the book, scheduled for publication in May, 2012.

Örn Bodvarsson's paper, "The Measurement of Pay Discrimination Between Job Assignments" (co-authored with John G. Sessions) was accepted for publication in *Labour Economics* in December. Örn presented an earlier version of this paper at the 12th IZA/CEPR European Summer Symposium in Labor Economics (ESSLE) in Munich, Germany in September.

Örn Bodvarsson presented his paper "How Does Age Distribution Affect Migration?: Theory and Test of China," at the Sixth Biennial Conference of the Hong Kong Economic Association at Nankai University and to the faculty and students at Nankai University Binhai College in Tianjin, China, in December.

Ming Lo's chapter "Redefining Assets in the Age of Branding: Spatial Planning and the Fate of Cultural Landscapes," (with Kristof van Assche; Geography, Planning and Community Development Dept), was published in *Spatial Planning and Management as an Instrument of Shaping Cultural Landscapes*, Branta: Krakow, 2011.

Ming Lo's article "Planning, Preservation, Place Branding: A Tale of Sharing Assets and Narratives," (with Kristof van Assche; Geography, Planning and Community Development Dept), was published in *Place Branding and Public Diplomacy*, 7(2), 116-126, May 2011.

David Switzer's paper, "DVD Sales and the R-Rating Puzzle," co-authored with David Lang and Brandon Swartz (2009 graduate) has been accepted by the *Journal of Cultural Economics*.

Emeritus **William Luksetich's** essay on orchestras has been published in the second edition of the *Handbook of Cultural Economics*.

GRADUATE ASSISTANTS

We welcome graduate assistants **Elizabeth Dalzen**, **Yuri Hupka**, and **Nhu Nguyen** and to the Applied Economics master's program, along with **Patrick Brama** and **Randy De Mel** to the Public and Nonprofit Institutions master's program. For the upcoming academic year, the Applied Economics program has 21 students enrolled and the PNI program has eight students enrolled.

ALUMNI

Dylan Novak, a 2011 graduate, is currently employed at Aon Risk Solutions. Dylan writes, "I am in their 18 month Early Career Development program on the track to hopefully become an Account Executive (5-10 years down the road). My current title is Early Career Development Associate."

Henry Munneke, a 1989 graduate, has been appointed to the Terry Distinguished Chair of Business Administration in the Terry College of Business at the University of Georgia. Dr. Munneke is a top researcher in the areas of land prices and urban economics, and has compiled an exceptional record of publishing in leading real estate journals. In addition, Dr. Munneke has been recognized for his excellence in teaching with several honors, including Terry College's Outstanding Teaching Award. His wife, Sherri (Smith), is also a 1989 economics graduate.

Anshuman Arun, a 2010 graduate, is currently self-employed and writes, "I trade and invest in the stock markets according to certain rules as per my ongoing research about market behavior factoring in the historical data sets. I plan to set up my own trading company within the next 3 to 5 years after I have some more experience although I already have 7 years of experience in this field. Hopefully I will start working on my PhD in Finance next year." Anshuman also completed a bachelor's degree in Computer Science with a minor in Mathematics.

Kris Bertelsen, a 2005 graduate, has accepted a position with the Little Rock Branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis as an Economic Education Specialist in Public Affairs. Previously, Kris was a teacher at St. Charles High School and was involved

in our Senior to Sophomore program with Professors Ken Rebeck and Dan Gallagher.

William Schramm, a 2004 graduate, has been accepted to the MBA program at the University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill. Bill was on campus in July, volunteering his time with the MN Business Venture Camp that brings high school students and business professionals together from across the state to spend a week on a college campus to learn about business, financial literacy, and career information.

Rajib Pandey, a 2007 graduate, is currently employed at Wells Fargo as a Database Analyst.

Russ McCullough, a 1993 graduate, has been appointed as the Wayne Angell Chair of Economics at Ottawa University. Dr. McCullough earned his Ph.D. in economics from Iowa State University. His research interests include public economics, international trade and finance and agricultural policy.

Luke Nietz, a 2011 graduate, has been hired by State Street Corp., working as a Fund Administrator in the Kansas City, MO location. Luke writes, "The company has shown an increase in hiring over the past year, and I have learned they intend to continue as their staff continues to expand. My understanding is that State Street is looking for individuals with backgrounds in Economics, Finance and/or Accounting and I will be certain to keep you posted as openings become available!" Thank you Luke, we appreciate it!

Bryan Kuechenmeister, a 2011 graduate, is currently employed at Ameriprise Financial as a Business Analyst.

Alexander Banks-Watson, a 2011 graduate, will be pursuing a Master of Science in Operational Research in Edinburgh. His wife, Aremy Stewart and newborn daughter, Zoe Stewart, will be moving with Alex to Scotland this Fall. Alex writes, "We're excited to live in another country and I'm looking forward to my further academic studies."

Enna Luitel, 2010 graduate, will be attending the Masters in Accounting program at Kent State starting in Fall 2011. Enna was awarded a graduate assistantship.

Matthew Kirschenman, a 2010 graduate, has finished his first year at The University of Chicago, Harris School of Public Policy. Along with graduate school, Matthew started an internship at JPMorgan Chase in their Government Relations Department, which will go throughout the summer and next school year.

Taylor Metzger, a 2011 graduate, is working for WAND Corporation in Eden Prairie. Taylor writes, "We provide Digital Menu boards, Point of Sale technology, and all sorts of neat software things for QSR (Quick service restaurants) and fast casual businesses. My official job title is "Product Associate", an entry level position which will evolve into a Product Manager position. It is hard to describe what I do because it is a dynamic role, but it is mainly a Management (internal) and Marketing (tactical) role in which I find myself using applications from my management classes. This past week I have been doing competitive market research where I am analyzing our competitor's pricing models. My responsibilities vary from week to week and I don't find myself doing the same thing every day which is exactly what I was looking for in a position."



Economics Department

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Learn more at stcloudstate.edu and m.stcloudstate.edu

We love correspondence from our alumni! Please keep in touch with us—we would like to know what you are doing now, along with learning about exciting events in your life. We welcome new information to include in upcoming newsletters.

Internships

We are always trying to expand our internship program. Let us know if your company offers internships and we will share this information with our majors.

Donations

Please consider giving; no donation is too small. Donating provides both financial support and encouragement to student recipients. We have several accounts to choose from:

Economics Scholarship (*undergraduate scholarships*)

Rose Marie Gamber Scholarship in Economics (*undergraduate scholarships*)

Michael D. White Economics Fellowship (*graduate scholarships*)

Economics Foundation (*student and department research/activities*)

Information on ways to give can be found at
<http://www.stcloudstate.edu/foundation/waystogive/>.

Let us know if you have suggestions on how we can improve our newsletter.
We hope to hear from you soon!

The goal of our newsletter, The Economics Bulletin, is to maintain communication between our alumni, faculty, and current students.

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St. Cloud State University is an affirmative action/ equal opportunity educator and employer.
A member of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities System.